1) Houma
2) Anti Castro

ARMS - CIA - FRENCH SECRET SERVICE

1. Novel says company in Virginia, Inter-Armco, sells surplus U.S. weapons and ordnance. Can buy everything from "freighter to a land mine."

2. Walter Sheridan of NBC, formerly with military intelligence, shepherding Novel. Has made three-hour documentary on the case and is in the process of editing for use on the air Novel says Sheridan is "directing the whole operation."

3. Novel: "If the Houma burglary were a ten-part puzzle, Garrison has the last seven parts." He knows what was taken and who took it, but he doesn't know why.

4. Novel staying free at an apartment in Columbus, driving auto with dealer tags on it.

5. Describes materials in Houma dump as military ordnance. Says included fish-hook hand grenades --- grenades wrapped with wire, laced with three-prong fishhooks --- used for assassination purposes.

6. Says Arcacha was and is top CIA man in this part of the country. Says Shaw was a CIA agent.

7. Says will use CIA connection as basis for defense. Will throw open whole thing about burglary

8. Novel says officially he still is a CIA agent

9. Identifies persons on Houma trip as Ferrie, himself, Arcacha, Ehlinger plus some Cubans. Did not identify Martens as member of the party. Martens testimony places him there.

10. Took more than one truck to Houma that night. Novel drove his Lincoln automobile. They loaded out crates and brought them back to New Orleans.

11. Novel said he had been in New York, returned to N.O. and was contacted by CIA contact, told to remove materials from Houma bunker. Says he was given the key to the bunker. This was before the Bay of Pigs, he says.

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12. Novel says munitions subsequently shipped out on Pt Boat from New Orleans escorted by CG cutter. This is doubtful since Schlumberger says a great deal of stuff was returned during the past year and has been destroyed.

13. Novel says this happened before the Bay of Pigs. Garrison's indictment says plot was made between Aug. 1 and 31, 1961, three months after the Bay of pigs. (Check records and check with Ernesto)

14. Says part of munitions dropped at Bannister's office (get Bannister file) at 418 Camp Street. Part taken to Ferrie's apartment, and part dropped in basement of Novel's office here.

15. Check out Lacombe find again with Sylvester. Also check with Ernesto on his knowledge of materials.

16. Information here is that Bannister was go between with Schlumberger to set up Houma dump for CIA operations. Reputedly a letter in Bannister's files from Bob Kennedy as atty. gen., authorizing use of schlumberger dump for that purpose.

17. Novel claims Clay Shaw was CIA agent. Used position with Int'l Trade Mart to check on outgoing-incoming persons with communist connections. (Get details Rome newspaper stories from Rosemary).

18. Novel says reason he fell out with Garrison is CIA had him bugging Garrison office and Garrison suspected. That is when he left town.

19. Of Houma, Novel has said publicly, "That was the most patriotic burglary in history." Weiner shut him up.

20. In April 18 story in Dayton Daily News, Novel said, "I think Garrison will expose some CIA operations in ~~xxxxxx~~ Louisiana." He did not elaborate

21. F.H. Yeargers, southeastern manager for Schlumberger said, Records not available on burglary. Materials were specialized materials applicable to oil field work. We use primer cord, and I know other types of powder were involved. Most of it --let's say some of it --- was recovered, and has been disposed of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ sometime within the last year. Was returned by Immigration service.

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22. Yeargers said he knows only about the black poweder. said was black poweder of low yield variety contained in plastic tubes. Must be encased in special guns we gave.

23. Cite testimony of Layton Patrick Martens

24. Dean Andrews call ref Bannister involvement. Andrews said "Letter of Marque," dictionary definition: "Written authority granted to a private person by a government to seize the subjects of a foreign government or their goods by way of retaliation for injuries." Says such letters sent to participants in the robbery. Beleives Ferrie's copy was found by Garrison in 1963 raid on Ferrie's Louisiana ave. pkwy. apt. Bannister believed to have also had copy. All Bannister files were in office at ~~Lee~~ Camp St. Says landlord tried his best to keep the files. whoever has them could give a lot of info.

25. Independent sources here told me Schlumberger cooperated with the CIA in the use of the Houma bunker prior to the Bay of Pigs, that Schlumberger got cold feet when the operation failed and refused further use of the bunker. The burglary followed. Further understand cubans may be involved in bombing wells in which schlumberger equipment was present. Bannister supposed to be key contact man with Schlumberger.

26. Check with Endicott on Novel saying, Tell Garrison code name in 1961 was "Star Christmas Trees" and "Holiday Trees."

27. Vernon G. Gerdes, onetime associate of Bannister, said he saw munitions in Bannister's office after the Houma burglary. Gave info to Dave Snyder sometime ago. Said munitions were in office behind bathroom at Bannister's office on Camp St. Gerdes does not want to be quoted by name and does not want to be involved. Dave checking on date, place, etc. See attached note from snyder.

28. Talked by phone ~~hm~~ 9:30 a.m. 4/21/67 with M.E. Loy, president of Schlumberger at Houston, Texas. Loy said the burglary was reported to the sheriff at the time (actually, it must have been reported to the city police since the dump is inside the city limits and the chief dputy said they have no records). Loy said the company worked closely with police to recover the stolen materials. He described the missing stuff as oil field perforating equipment, "things we use in everyday operations." after I began to question him about Novel statements, he said, "Frankly, this thing is big and is newsworthy and I don't want to get involved and neither does my company~~hm~~ except to bring out the truth." It would be difficult to use except for the purposes intended, he said of the stolen material. Under questioning, Loy said there were 10 or 15 cases taken, as best he could remember. I quoted Gerdes statement that he had seen ~~50m~~ 50 to 100 boxes in Bannister's office. He siad that was impossible unless someone had forged Schlumberger names to the boxes. "There's nothing to prevent anyone from putting our name on boxes, he said. He said he could not remember the date of the burglary and that he could not remember the general volume of materials taken. It wasn't much, he said, because only two or three days' supply was kept on hand. "I would rather wait for the authoritiesto give the date," he said. Asked if materials were returned, he said they were. He said most of the stolen material was returned, but he could not say what it consisted of, or did not consist of. He agreed that Schlumberger used a lot of blasting caps and primer cord, materials found at a Lacombe cabin in 1963, but he could not say whether such material was taken from the bunker. He agreed it could very well have been there in some quantity. He said a company explosives loader visits the bunker every day. He said a loader discovered the 1961 burglary and it was reported immediately. "Could there have been another bunker there?" he suggested. I asked him why he thought so. He said, "Well, it was an old abandoned military base, and there might be other bunkers." He said he would find out for me and let me know at 3:30 p.m. this date.

29. Check with source in New York indicates French have had three names for intelligence service in recent years -- The old, familiar Deuxieme Bureau (Second Bureau); The DGER (Direction Generale des Etudes et Research (Directory General of Studies and Research), and The DGSS (Direction Generale Service Specialeux (Directory General of Special Services).

30. Ross Yockey talked with Stephen Plotkin on Novel revelations. See attached memo from Ross.

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31. Talked this p.m. 4/21/67 with Ernest Rodeigues, whose brother was at Bay of Pigs and who has seen materials taken from the Schlumberger bunker. He said the stuff started turning up among people he knew in the summer of 1962 --- a year or more after the alleged burglary. He said he understood it had been hidden for some time in a shed back of a refugee cuban's house. He was shown what he described as a "little plastic cup with a bubble which was supposed to fit into something else." The cup contained black poweder. He said some other materials, which were flares, looked like grenades. He said Cubans found they could not use it and were trying to get rid of the stuff. He said Arcacha was reputed to have organized the raid on the Houma bunker. Suggested talking with Carlos Quirega, who was close to Arcacha and his driver. also mentioned Richard Davis. Said he later saw photographs of material from Houma dump. Said advance segment trained in N.O. went to Varacoa on a diversionary raid, was met by Castro troops and immediately interned. Davis said Arcacha told him the American boy could go through this fence while the sentry was looking the other way. He was supposed tomlook the other way.

32. Ley returned call at 4:30 p.m. Said his people remembered burglary as being in third quarter of the year of 1961. They confirmed records in sheriff's office had disappeared. Remember it being small quantity of material. Leased space from Houma airport authority. Cannot find there were other magazines on the old base.

33. On 4/24/67 received information from informant re possible link between Schlumberger burglary and anti-Gaullist movement during 1960-1961 period. Informant says New Orleans was center of Gaullist resistance which intended to try takeover of Martinique, Guadaloupe and other French West Indies possessions. Suggested dissident elements in DGSS set up Houma dump as staging point for munitions to aid anti-Gaullist insurgents. Informant recalls de Gaulle visited U.S. during the period in question and key U.S. intelligence officersmm were called intonState Dept. for briefing shortly thereafter. Informant suggests CIA or other intelligence unit arranged seizure of materials at Schlumberger on behalf of Gaullist government. This would explain the possible existence of Latters de Marque.

34. Called Nicky de P. evening of 4/25/67, relayed information and asked for check through French and New Yorksources. De. P. said the anti-Gaullist stuff was very possible, that strong anti de Gaulle sentiment existed throughout the country, led by prominent businessmen. De P. is strongly anti Gaullist, as is the president of Saint Gobain. Said possible Schlumberger involvement is very possible. They will check and report.